Indian Representatievs to the ILO

3580. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of the present members from India to the I.L.O.;

(b) what are the I.L.O. conventions pending ratification by Government of India;

(c) the number of conventions that were received by Government for ratification during the last three years, and how many of them have been ratified so far; and

(d) what are the reasons for not ratifying some of the conventions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) The Government of India, Shri Haribhau Naik (INTUC) and Shri I.P. Anand (CIE) are the Indian reresentatives on the Governing Body of the ILO.

(b) and (d) India has ratified 36 out of the 174 Conventions adopted by the ILO so far. The ILO Conventions encompass a vast span of subjects which includes basic human rights, employment, labour administration, conditions of work, social security, safety and health, migrant workers etc. Some of the Conventions are not required to be ratified by India because they apply to Non-Metropolitan Territories or have been revised by subsequent Conventions.

The Government has been examining from time to time, the law and practice prevalent in the country in relation to the subject matter of ILO Conventions and ratifying them wherever possible. In many cases, ratification of a Convention entails upgradation of technology, augmentation of enforcement machinery, changes in law, financial obligations etc. which is not possible in the existing socio-economic conditions and this withholds its ratification.

(c) During 1990, 1991 and 1992 the following ILO Convention were adopted:

(i) Convention No. 170, concerning Safety in the Use of Chemicals at Work, 1990.

(ii) Convention No. 171, concerning Night Work, 1990.

(iii) Conventon No. 172, concerning Working Conditions in Hotels, Restaurants and Similar Establishment, 1991.

(iv) Convention No. 173, concerning the Protection of Workers' Claims in the event of the Insolvency of their Employer.

None of the above Conventions have been ratified by the Government of India.

Implementation of Child Labour by States

3581. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several States have not informed the Union Labour Ministry of cases of prosecution and conviction under the provisions of the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the steps Government have taken to ensure the implementation of this Act in the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) State Govts./U.Ts. are addressed from time to time to furnish information on enforcement on a

quarterly basis. Review meetings are laid with State Govts. regarding enforcement of laws relating to child labour. The matter was reviewed in the Labour Minister's Conference on 8-7-93. For better enforcement training of enforcement officers is taken up periodically.

Chil Labourers in lime stone and State stone quarries in Andhra Pradesh

3582. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that thousands of children work in Lime stone and Slate stone quarries of Andhra Pradesh, specially in Makarpur area;

(b) whether it is a fact that these children work in extremely inhuman, unhealthy and exploitative conditions and on very low wages; and

(c) if so, what are the details of the measures Government are taking to improve the conditions of these hapless child labourers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) to (c) Children below the age of 18 years are prohibited to work in any mine or part thereof under the Mines Act, 1952. However, it has been observed that children work in quarries. National Child Labour Project is running in Markapur in Andhra Pradesh for children withdrawn from Slate industry. 20 special schools with a capacity of 1000 children have been set up under the Project.

Proposal to introduce insurance fund for employees

3583. SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY:
SHRI P. UPENDRA:
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:
SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to involve all employees in the scheme "Insurance fund for employees" to meet the hardships of unemployment, if so, what are the details thereof;

(b) whether the necessity of framing a scheme or law with an object to face unemployment is over felt by Government, if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether trade unions have ever suggested the need for "insurance fund for employees" as a cover against unemployment, retrenchment, and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) to (c) At present, there is no scheme such as Insurance Fund for employees', to meet the hardships of unemployment, in operation. No suggestion has been received from the trade unions in this regard. However, the Government has established the National Renewal Fund with the objectives of providing assistance for retraining and redeployment of workers as a result of modernisation, industrial restructuring and for providing funds or employment generation schemes both in the organised and unorganised sectors in order to provide a social safety net for labour needs arising from the consequences of industrial restructuring.